

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team on winning the title of UIL 4A State Champions.

In his first year coaching at Highland Park, Jess Cole led the girls to their eighth consecutive win in the UIL Texas State Championship on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Those who competed at the State meet include Allison Arnold, Megan Arnold, Hannah Ferrin, Bolton Harris, Delaney Rolfe, Katy Streepey, Katy Tye, and Alex Weber. Their continued success can be attributed to their hard work, dedication, passion for swimming, and a strong sense of team spirit. In addition to claiming the title of State Champions, the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team now holds the longest State record in UIL swimming and diving, matching Class A Booker's record in girls golf as the longest in Texas high school sports since recordkeeping began in 1910.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team for their well-deserved victory and wish them all the best in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NIAGARA COUNTY ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and delight that I rise today to recognize and celebrate Niagara County on its 200th anniversary.

From the locks of the Erie Canal to the roar of Niagara Falls, and from its rich history to its wonderful and generous people, Niagara County has much to celebrate on its bicentennial.

The first settlers of this area were amazed and continually challenged by the geographic surprises that awaited them. The most well-known surprise is the 12,000-year-old Niagara Falls, which the early settlers looked upon as an unexplained phenomenon of nature. While the breathtaking, yet hazardous, Niagara Falls rushes 6 million cubic feet of water over its edges every minute during its daytime peak, the falls did stand still on March 29, 1848. An ice blockade on Lake Erie stopped the flow of water into the falls, allowing for an opportunity for people to explore the cliffs of Niagara Falls. The falls remains the largest attraction in Niagara County, attracting millions of tourists every year.

Niagara County was one of the pioneers in aviation with its "Grand Balloon Ascension" in July 1858. This display of aeronautical ingenuity brought crowds from all over Niagara County, and also many of the surrounding counties. While the balloon remained in the air

for just over 30 seconds, this display was seen as a huge accomplishment to the crowds that witnessed the event. The manufacturing and research center Bell Aerospace in the town of Wheatfield was instrumental in creating jobs in Niagara County. This plant is well-known around the world for its helicopters, rocket belts, and lunar modules. The rocket powered Bell X-1 supersonic aircraft that broke the sound barrier was piloted in 1947, by the renowned Chuck Yeager. This historic craft is now displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Not only was Niagara County a leader in aviation, it was instrumental in the development and expansion of the telegraph machine and the telephone in western New York. Niagara County was the location of the second telegraph line in the United States. The line was constructed in 1845 and stretched all the way from Lockport to Buffalo. The telegraph line provided a service experienced by few up to this time in history. The first major message sent on this telegraph line was the results of the 1845 elections. The first telephone arrived in Niagara County in 1878, just 2 years after Alexander Graham Bell patented this invention. This telephone connected Cataract Bank with the home of the bank officer. People came from all over the county to view this life-altering invention.

This bicentennial should be a celebration of the residents of Niagara County past and present. The traditions of hard work and dedication have been instilled in this community. You can tell when you meet the people of Niagara County that they are all willing to lend a hand and help a neighbor.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of its rich history, innovation, and its wonderful residents, I ask that this honorable body join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Niagara county.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Vienna Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Vienna Police Department. Receiving the Life Saving Award: Sergeant Anthony R. Clingerman, Master Police Officer Jared B. Evans, Master Police Officer J. Michael Oliver, Master Police Officer H. Trent Nelson; the Silver Medal: Sergeant Anthony R. Clingerman.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Vienna Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 105 on H.R. 2857—GIVE Act, the Flake amendment, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL FRANK DAY McMULLEN, JR., USN (RET.)

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to VADM Frank Day McMullen, Jr. A native of Kansas City, MO, he bravely served our country for 36 years in the United States Navy. Vice Admiral McMullen passed away on January 2, 2008.

Frank McMullen graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1947. He received his post-graduate degree from The George Washington University. He also attended the National War College and served as deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy. Vice Admiral McMullen's extraordinary career led him to command one diesel electric and two nuclear powered submarines, the Submarine Squadron in the Holy Loch, Scotland, the Submarine Fortilla in New London, CT, and the Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in Pearl Harbor, HI.

Vice Admiral McMullen was very fortunate to have the love and understanding of his family who encouraged him, even when he left home to serve on lengthy deployments. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, who passed away in November 2002, and his daughter Christine, who passed away in March 1994.

Vice Admiral McMullen truly loved his work and was very proud of his service to our country. I hope Members of the House will join me in honoring this outstanding Missourian, an extraordinary naval officer, and a wonderful husband, father, and friend.

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I voted for this resolution because I believe we must condemn the

rocket attacks launched from Gaza into Israel. Many innocent persons, both Israeli and Palestinian, have been killed or injured in the violence. In addition to death and injury, the ongoing violence has destroyed property, instilled fear, and disrupted the lives of innocent civilians on both sides of the conflict.

I appreciate that the resolution helps document the toll that rocket attacks have exacted on Israeli civilians. But I very much regret that the resolution misses an important opportunity to acknowledge the complexity of problems and issues which give rise to the conflict. And I am particularly troubled that the resolution fails to recognize the depth and breadth of human suffering, misery, and death that has been visited upon the people of Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, the humanitarian situation in Gaza has only worsened since the armed takeover by Hamas in June 2007. Basic items such as baby milk, wheat grain, vegetable oil, and dairy products are in short supply. Additionally, the tightening of restrictions on the movement of goods and people by the Israeli government is causing serious hardship according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA.

The OCHA has found that these restrictions have had the effect of preventing the people of Gaza from receiving desperately needed healthcare treatments like chemotherapy and radiation therapy for cancer patients, pediatric surgery, and neurosurgery. The restrictions on the movement of goods make it difficult for healthcare providers to obtain new diagnostic medical equipment or the parts to service existing equipment that has fallen into disrepair. To make matters worse, it appears that those Palestinians who want to leave Gaza to pursue treatment in Israel or abroad are finding it difficult to do so.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is available and accessible to the people of Gaza is one of the most important steps that can be taken to ensure that the peace process succeeds and is not derailed by continued violence. It is for this reason that I recently wrote to Secretary of State Rice urging her to do all she can to make certain that vital humanitarian goods and services are successfully delivered in Gaza. I believe the moral force of the resolution would have been enhanced had it called for similar action.

Finally, this resolution cites the roles of Iran, Syria, and Egypt in enabling these attacks. I want to be clear that nothing recited in the resolution would justify a preemptive military response against these countries nor should it be used as grounds to build a case for such an action.

Mr. Speaker, the rocket attacks against Israel condemned by this resolution have caused great suffering to the victims. Acknowledging that suffering in a congressional resolution is a fitting and proper thing to do. But at the end of the day, the peace and justice we all seek will not come from passing a resolution in Congress. Rather, a just and lasting peace will come from the parties resolving in their hearts and minds to rededicate themselves to the active engagement in good faith negotiation to bring the two-state solution into being. I call upon the Administration to redouble its efforts in discharging its indispensable role as honest broker in the peace process.

HONORING DR. FREDERICK "SKIP" BERRIEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for over three decades, Dr. Frederick "Skip" Berrien has been a prominent figure in Connecticut's medical, academic, and child welfare communities. This month, he will retire as the director for the Child Abuse/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. I rise today to recognize and celebrate his illustrious career and his contributions to our friends and neighbors in Connecticut.

Between 1980 and 1987, Dr. Berrien served as the director of pediatrics and acting medical director in general pediatrics at the UConn/Mount Sinai Health Center. Following his tenure at the UConn/Mount Sinai Health Center, Dr. Berrien assumed an associate director position for pediatric ambulatory services at Saint Francis Hospital. He subsequently served as director of pediatric ambulatory services, clinical director for sickle cell services, co-director of the Siberian American Children's Health Program, and director of child abuse services/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis. Beginning in 2001, Dr. Berrien joined the Connecticut Children's Medical Center as a consultant for the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Program.

While the size and scope of Skip's medical career is clear, his contributions to the academic and social services community have also been substantial. From 1977 to 1979, Dr. Berrien was a clinical instructor at Boston University and from 1980 until present, an associate professor of clinical pediatrics at UConn School of Medicine. His original research ranges from the state of Russian pediatric health care to pediatric sickle cell pain management. His work in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union, established new, enduring partnerships with Russian doctors that has benefited both countries.

Dr. Berrien has added to his role of providing and teaching pediatric care, to serving as a forceful advocate for issues such as prevention of child abuse and neglect. In the early 1990's, he was instrumental with developing the Child Abuse/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis Hospital. At the time there was no program at all to deal with this critical unmet need in central Connecticut. Today as Dr. Berrien leaves, the center is one of the most respected such programs in the country and has brought both compassion and justice to this challenging area of law and medicine. In addition, Skip remains an active participant of such organizations as the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Hartford Multidisciplinary Intervention Child Abuse Team.

Medical professionals serve an invaluable role in our society. They are protectors of public health, and purveyors of hope and social justice. Throughout his career, Dr. Berrien has exemplified each of these roles. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents with recognizing his contributions and offering our warmest wishes for his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues, FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Herndon Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Herndon Police Department. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Sergeant Stephen Thompson, Senior Police Officer James J. Passmore, Officer Adil Afab, and Officer Michael R. Croson.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 106 on H.R. 2857, GIVE Act, the Inslee Amendment, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING SCOTTS HILL LIONS CLUB

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Scotts Hill Lions Club as they celebrate their 60th anniversary.

The Scotts Hill Lions Club was chartered on March 30, 1948, due to the hard work and vision of Scott Hill's Mayor Erin Holland and Adamsville Lions' Club member Farris Stafford. As a chartered member, the Scotts Hill Lions Club became part of Lions Club International, which is the world's largest service club organization with more than 46,000 clubs in over 190 countries and approximately 1.4 million members.

Over the course of the last 60 years, the Scotts Hill Lions Club members have volunteered their time, energy, and resources to